

General Information

Department of Elementary
and Secondary Education
Division of Special Education
Phone: 573-751-0187

Web site:
<http://dese.mo.gov/divspeced/FirstSteps>

Training Information

Web site:
<http://mu-cise-web1.coe.missouri.edu/web-cal/>

Provider Enrollment Information

Phone: 1-866-711-2573, Ext. 2

CFO Provider Enrollment
c/o Covansys Software Services
P.O. Box 29134
Shawnee Mission, KS 66201-9134

Web site:
<http://missouri.eikids.com>



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Join the First Steps Team!



Work with Young Children and Families Providing Early Intervention Services

First Steps Missouri's Early Intervention Program

First Steps is a collaborative effort of the Missouri Departments of Elementary and Secondary Education, Health and Senior Services, Mental Health, and Social Services and is supported by federal, state, local, and private funds. First Steps offers early intervention services and assistance to families with young children, birth to age three, who have delayed development or diagnosed conditions that are associated with developmental disabilities. The goal of First Steps is to provide coordinated services for Missouri families in natural environments. Participation in First Steps is voluntary and is intended to help families:

- understand their child's special needs;
- obtain the help they desire to deal with situations that could interfere with their child's growth and development; and
- provide the best conditions for their child's growth and development.

First Steps is implementing a major redesign of the statewide system, creating new opportunities for participation by families, service providers, and community partners. First Steps uses a "family centered"



approach, recognizing that each family is a key participant of a multidisciplinary team comprised of service providers and early intervention professionals who match services to meet the family's needs relating to their child's development.

First Steps Providers Needed by the Early Intervention System

- Assistive Technologists
- Audiologists
- Certified Occupational Therapy Assistants (COTA)
- Family Trainers
- Interpreters
- Physicians
- Nurses
- Nutritionists
- Occupational Therapists
- Physical Therapists
- Physical Therapist Assistants (PTA)
- Psychologists
- Service Coordinators
- Special Instructors
- Social Workers
- Speech-Language Pathologists
- Transportation Providers
- Optometrists



Early intervention services are selected through the Individualized Family Service Plan (IFSP) process. Families are empowered to choose providers from a service matrix who will best meet the needs of the child and family.

Who Can Be a First Steps Service Provider?

Service providers must qualify by meeting state-approved certifications, licensing, registration, or other comparable requirements that apply to the area in which the person is providing early intervention services.

Some service providers must also meet the Early Intervention Credential. The requirements are competency based, include core knowledge and skills required of early intervention personnel, and assure that the provider understands the First Steps system and philosophy.

Providers who have limited contact with children and families are not required to obtain the Early Intervention Credential. These include physicians, optometrists, audiologists, interpreters, assistive technologists, and transportation providers. Specific provider requirements can be found in the Personnel Guide for Early Intervention on the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education Web site.



First Steps offers a series of training modules to providers on an ongoing basis. These modules are scheduled at a variety of locations and times throughout the state.

How Do I Become a First Steps Service Provider?

A First Steps provider must be enrolled with the Central Finance Office (CFO) to provide authorized services to First Steps children and their families. Service providers may enroll as individual practitioners or as employees of an agency. Providers individually select their service area, caseload capacity, and practice days and hours. This flexibility leaves providers with many options, including carrying a full caseload or doing part-time work to supplement their income.